

Amendments To the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1. (currently amended) A seal element (1) for sealing a gap (5) between a first component (2) and a second component (3) spaced apart from each other, ~~said the~~ first component (2) having a first surface (9) and ~~said the~~ second component (3) having an opposing second surfaces (10), ~~said the~~ seal element (1) comprising:

a) a support structure (4), having at least two contacting members; and

b) a sealing structure (6) covering at least partially ~~said the~~ support structure (4), wherein ~~said support structure (4) comprises at least two contacting members (8), each contacting member (8) serves for putting a portion of the sealing structure (6) in contact with one of the surfaces (9,10) and being capable of following a deformation and/or movement of said surface (9,10), characterised in that, and wherein that~~ said the support structure (4) has a frame portion (7) to which ~~said the~~ contacting members (8) is connected via a branch portion (21) extending away from ~~said the~~ frame portion (7).

2. (currently amended) A ~~S~~seal element (1) according to claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ sealing structure (6) comprises a web having metallic and/or ceramic fibres.

3. (currently amended) A ~~S~~seal element (1) according to claim 2, wherein ~~said the~~ sealing structure (6) comprises a ceramic fibre fabric, a ceramic fibre tape, a ceramic fibre sleeving or a ceramic fibre mat.

4. (currently amended) A ~~S~~seal element (1) according to claims 2 ~~or~~ 3, wherein ~~said the~~ sealing structure (6) comprises ceramic fibres consisting of ZrO₂, SiO₂ and/or Al₂O₃.

5. (currently amended) A ~~S~~seal element (1) according to claim 2, wherein ~~said the~~ sealing structure (6) comprises a metallic fibre fabric, a metallic fibre tape, a metallic fibre sleeving or a metallic fibre mat.

6. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, wherein ~~said the~~ sealing structure (6) comprises metallic fibres consisting of a superalloy, in particular a nickel-based, a cobalt-based or ironbased superalloy.

7. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, wherein ~~said the~~ sealing structure (6) is loosely connected to said support structure (4).

8. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, wherein ~~said the~~ support structure (4) consists of a metal, in particular a sheet metal.

9. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, wherein ~~said the~~ support structure (4) has a curved form, in particular is U-shaped, open-ring shaped or ring-shaped.

10. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, wherein ~~said the~~ branch portion (21) and ~~said the~~ contacting member (8) are elastically deformable.

11. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, wherein ~~said the~~ support structure (4) has at least two branch portions (21) with different length.

12. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, wherein ~~said the~~ branch portions (21) form together with a middle portion (36) a two-arm spring (34), which spring (34) is fastened to said frame portion (7) at said middle portion (36).

13. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, further comprising a tightening member (20) for tightening said sealing structure (6) between two adjacent contacting members (8).

14. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to claim 13, wherein said tightening member (20) comprises a spring member, ~~in particular a spring ring~~.

15. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims 1~~ for the use in a hot gas chamber (23) having a hot-gas flow region (11), ~~said the~~ hot gas chamber (23) having comprising:

a wall structure (13) surrounding ~~said the~~ hot-gas flow region (11) and comprising ~~said the~~ second component (3) having ~~said the~~ second surface (10), ~~said the~~ first component (2) being attached to said wall structure (13) and having ~~said the~~ first surface (10), which is directed to the wall structure (13), wherein ~~said the~~ gap (5) is formed between ~~said the~~ first component (3) and ~~said the~~ second component (3), ~~said the~~ sealing structure (6) being in contact with ~~said the~~ second surfaces (10) of ~~said the~~ second component (3) and with ~~said the~~ first surface (9) of ~~said the~~ first component (2) thereby sealing ~~said the~~ gap (5).

16. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to claim 15, wherein ~~said the~~ hot gas chamber (23) is a part of a combustion turbine (22), ~~in particular is a combustion chamber or a turbine section.~~

17. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to claims 15 ~~or 16~~, wherein ~~said the~~ first component (2) is a heat shield element of a combustion chamber or a shroud element of a turbine section.

18. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to ~~anyone of the~~ claims 1 ~~to 14~~ for the use in a combustion turbine (22), the combustion turbine comprising:

a burner (41);

a turbine section (17) having a turbine inlet (44) for hot gas (24) to enter ~~said the~~ turbine section (17); and

a duct (43) connecting ~~said the~~ burner (41) to ~~said the~~ turbine section (17) for hot gas (24) to flow from said burner (41) to said turbine section (17), whereby ~~said the~~ first surface (9) is formed by ~~said the~~ turbine inlet (44) and ~~said the~~ second surface (10) by ~~said the~~ duct (43) in the vicinity of ~~said the~~ turbine inlet (44), with ~~said the~~ gap (5) between ~~said the~~ first surface (9) and ~~said the~~ second surface (10) sealed by ~~said the~~ seal element (1).

19. (currently amended) A combustion turbine (22), comprising:

a hot gas chamber (23) having a hot-gas flow region (11);_i

a wall structure (13) surrounding ~~said~~ the hot-gas flow region (11) and comprising at least one second component (3) having a second surface (10) directed to ~~said~~ the hot-gas flow region (11);_i

at least one first component (2) being attached to ~~said~~ the wall structure (13) and having a first surface (9), which is directed to the wall structure (13);_i

a gap (5) formed between ~~said~~ the first component (2) and ~~said~~ the second component (3);_i

a seal element (1) for sealing said gap (5) ~~said~~ the seal element (1) comprising:

a) a support structure (4);_i

b) a sealing structure (6) covering at least partially ~~said~~ the support structure (4), wherein ~~said~~ the support structure (4) comprises at least two contacting members (8), each contacting member (8) puts a portion of ~~said~~ the sealing structure (6) in contact with one of the surfaces (9,10) and being capable of following a deformation of ~~said~~ the surface (9,10), ~~characterised in that, wherein that~~ ~~said~~ the support structure (4) has a frame portion (7) to which ~~said~~ the contacting members (8) is connected via a branch portion (21) extending away from said frame portion (7).

20. (currently amended) A Combustion turbine (22) comprising:

a burner (41);_i

a turbine section (17) having a turbine inlet (44) for hot gas (24) to enter ~~said~~ the turbine section (17);_i

a duct (43) connecting ~~said~~ the burner (41) to ~~said~~ the turbine section (17) for hot gas (24) to flow from ~~said~~ the burner (41) to ~~said~~ the turbine section (17), whereby a first surface (9) is formed by ~~said~~ the turbine inlet (44) and a second surface (10) by ~~said~~ the duct (43) in the vicinity of ~~said~~ the turbine inlet (44), so that a gap (5) is formed between ~~said~~ the first surface (9) and ~~said~~ the second surface (10);_i and

a seal element for sealing the which gap (5) is sealed by a seal element (1); said the seal element (1) comprises:

a) a support structure (4);_i

b) a sealing structure (6) covering at least partially ~~said~~ the support structure (4), wherein ~~said~~ the support structure (4) comprises at least two contacting members (8), each contacting member (8) puts a portion of ~~said~~ the sealing structure (6) in contact with one of the surfaces (9,10) and being capable of following a deformation of said surface (9,10), ~~characterised in that,~~ ~~that said~~ wherein the support structure (4) has a frame portion (7) to which ~~said~~ the contacting members (8) is connected via a branch portion (21) extending away from said frame portion (7).

21. (currently amended) A Combustion turbine (22) according to claims 19 ~~or 20~~, wherein ~~said~~ the seal element (1) comprises a curved frame portion (7) from which ~~said~~ the contacting members (8) are spaced apart and each contacting member (8) being connected to ~~said~~ the frame portion (7) via a branch portion (21).

22. (currently amended) A Combustion turbine (22) according to ~~anyone of the~~ claims 19 ~~to 21~~, wherein ~~said~~ the seal element (1) is surrounded by ~~said~~ the sealing structure (6) being a sleeving.